

P-527, 430/CP-91-608; P-527, 430/CP-91-630 ORDER REQUIRING NOTIFICATION AND
CLOSING DOCKETS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Tom Burton
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Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from the Millerville Exchange to the
Alexandria Exchange

ISSUE DATE: April 6, 1994

DOCKET NO. P-527, 430/CP-91-608

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from the Brandon Exchange to the
Alexandria Exchange

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ORDER REQUIRING NOTIFICATION AND
CLOSING DOCKETS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 20, 1993, the Commission issued its ORDER APPROVING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES in these two dockets. The Order also required Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association (Gardonville), which serves the Brandon and Millerville exchanges, to fully cooperate with Commission staff in balloting the exchanges.

On November 16, 1993, Commission Staff sent a letter to Gardonville requesting it to submit its customer lists to the Commission's extended area service (EAS) balloting contractor. Staff requested Gardonville to include on its lists a mailing address for each customer access line in service as of December 3, 1993. Balloting was scheduled to begin December 29, 1993.

On or before December 10, 1993, the balloting contractor informed the Commission that the number of addresses provided by Gardonville was substantially below the predicted number for the two exchanges in these dockets.

On December 20, 1993, Gardonville submitted a letter to Commission staff identifying a number of subscribers as "cross boundary" subscribers. In late December 1993, Gardonville verbally explained that "cross boundary" subscribers are subscribers to Foreign Exchange (FX) service with another Gardonville exchange.

On February 11, 1994, Gardonville verbally explained that FX subscribers do not have service from the central office of the exchange in which their premises are physically located.

Rather, FX subscribers are assigned a prefix from another Gardonville exchange and also receive the same extended area service (EAS) routes in effect for the prefix to which they are assigned.

On February 17, 1994, Commission Staff held a telephone conference call with the petition sponsors and Gardonville. The petition sponsors stated that FX service fulfills the need for EAS to Alexandria, the petitioned exchange in these two dockets. Since FX is optional, the petition sponsors stated the those subscribers who need EAS to Alexandria can get it while those subscribers who do **not** want the service do not need to pay any additional charges.

On March 8, 1994, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Petitions No Longer Necessary

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association (Gardonville) serves four exchanges: the petitioning exchanges (Brandon and Millerville) and two others (Garfield and Evansville). Alexandria, the petitioned exchange, is served by United Telephone Company.

After the petitions were filed in these matters, Gardonville began offering Garfield FX service to any subscriber in any of its exchanges, including the petitioning exchanges (Brandon and Millerville). Because Garfield has EAS to Alexandria, any Gardonville subscriber can get EAS to Alexandria by subscribing to Garfield FX service.

In essence, then, Gardonville provides EAS to Alexandria on an optional basis for subscribers in the petitioning exchanges (Brandon and Millerville) who want it. In fact, substantial portions of the subscribers in both exchanges are FX subscribers. In Brandon, 209 of 603 total subscribers have FX. In Millerville, 45 of 170 subscribers have FX.

The sponsors of the Brandon and Millerville EAS petitions believe that the Garfield FX service meets the needs that they originally sought to meet through these petitions. The Commission agrees. While there may have been demand for EAS to Alexandria when the petitions were filed, that demand can now be satisfied through subscription to FX service.

Accordingly, the Commission finds that the petitions are without further purpose and that these dockets should be closed.

Notice to Subscribers

Prior to actually closing these dockets, however, the Commission will require Gardonville to notify its subscribers of the availability of FX service. The notice should list the rates for FX service and explain its substitutability for EAS service. The proposed notice should be filed for approval by Commission Staff and served on customers in the first possible billing cycle after approval. Once Gardonville files confirmation that it has duly served the subscriber notices, these dockets will be closed.

Moot Questions

In these circumstances, obviously, the Commission need not decide the narrower questions

whether seasonal and FX subscribers should be permitted to vote. These questions are moot.

ORDER

1. Within 30 days after this Order, Gardonville Telephone Company (Gardonville) shall be filed for approval by Commission Staff a notice informing its customers of the availability of Garfield Foreign Exchange (FX) service. The notice shall list the rates for FX service and explain its substitutability for EAS service.
2. In the first billing cycle after Commission Staff approves the notice, Gardonville shall serve a copy of the Notice on all subscribers in its four exchanges.
3. Within 10 days after the notification has been completed as required by Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2, Gardonville shall notify the Commission in writing of that fact and the dockets will be closed.
4. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)